

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 EA-09 NEA-10

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INFO US MISSION IAEA VIENNA 0128

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USERDA HQ GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

UNCLAS RIO DE JANEIRO 3599

STATE PASS IO/SCT FROM USDEL IAEA

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA, AORG, OCON

SUBJ: IAEA 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: PLENARY: SEPTEMBER 22

MORNING SESSION

SUMMARY: STATEMENT BY USREP OPENED GENERAL DEBATE FOLLOWED BY STATEMENTS BY REPS OF CANADA, UK, FRG, ITALY, FRANCE AND SPAIN. GENERAL ATTITUDE DISPLAYED TOWARDS AGENCY WAS AFFIRMATIVE, WITH EACH REP HIGHLIGHTING ELEMENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO HIS GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. USREP ROBERT SEAMANS OPENED SESSION WITH MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD COVEYING BEST WISHES FOR AGENCY'S SUCCESS AND CONFIRMING US INTENTION EXPAND ITS PARTICIPATION IN IAEA

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ACTIVITIES. HE FOLLOWED THIS WITH WIDERANGING ANALYSIS OF TASKS

CONFRONTING AGENCY TODAY, INCLUDING WASTE DISPOSAL, ENERGY CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGIES, SAFEGUARDS, PHYSICAL PROTECTION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. (TEXT OF SPEECH AVAILABLE FROM ERDA, MR. JAMES AMMONS).

2. CANADIAN REP BEESLEY STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE NUCLEAR POWER. IT ALSO SUPPORTED AGENCY'S WORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, NUCLEAR SAFETY, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THE REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTER STUDY. CANADA WAS INTERESTED IN THE CONCEPT OF AGENCY SERVING AS DEPOSITORY FOR PLUTONIUM STOCKS, ALTHOUGH IT PERCEIVED DIFFICULT QUESTIONS WHICH IT HOPED WOULD RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION. MR. BEESLEY THOUGHT IT ESSENTIAL THE AGENCY MAINTAIN A BALANCE BETWEEN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SAFEGUARDS AND WAS PLEASED THAT A SECOND DIVISION WAS BEING ESTABLISHED IN THE SAFEGUARDS DEPARTMENT. HE ECHOED DG'S CALL FOR END TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS TEST. HE ADVOCATED A COMPLETE TEST BAN AGREEMENT AMONG THOSE NWS WILLING TO SIGN ONE NOW, WHICH AGREEMENT WOULD BE OPEN TO JOINING BY OTHERS IN FUTURE.

3. UK REP ARNOLD ALLEN PERCEIVED TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS AREAS FOR NUCLEAR POWER: PROLIFERATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT WITH FORMER BEING MORE IMPORTANT. HE URGED RATIFICATION OF NPT (WELCOMING JAPANESE RATIFICATION), AND URGED COUNTRIES NOT WILLING TO RATIFY TO UTILIZE SAFEGUARDS ON THEIR FULL FUEL CYCLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH MODEL AGREEMENT DEVISED BY AGENCY SECRETARIAT AT UK INSTIGATION. HE NOTED US AND UK VOLUNTARY SAFEGUARDS OFFERS AND EXPRESSED HOPE OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES WOULD FOLLOW SUIT. HE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR AGENCY STUDIES OF MULTINATIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTERS AND VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PNES. HE SUPPORTED MAINTENANCE OF PROMOTIONAL AND REGULATORY FUNCTIONS WITH ONE AGENCY. CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, HE THOUGHT AMOUNT OF CIVIL WASTE IN NEAR FUTURE SMALL; IT CAN BE STORED, HE SAID, AND THERE IS TIME AVAILABLE TO DETERMINE ITS FINAL DISPOSITION. HE REPORTED IN SOME DETAIL ON UK NUCLEAR CONSTRUCTION PLANS, AS DID THE ITALIAN AND SPANISH REPS WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENTS AND PLANS IN THEIR OWN TERRITORIES.

4. FRG REP HAUSCHILD STRESSED IMPORTANCE HIS GOVERNMENT PLACES ON NUCLEAR POWER, EXPECTING 40 PERCENT OF FRG ENERGY FROM THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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SOURCE IN MID-80S. HE NOTED PUBLIC CONTROVERSY OVER NUCLEAR POWER, WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT WELCOMED AS OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE PUBLIC BY PUBLISHING BOOK, HOLDING MEETINGS, ETC., WHICH HE STATED HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO "MORE OBJECTIVE APPROACH" BY PUBLIC. HE CALLED THE NPT A MAJOR INSTRUMENT OF NON-PROLIFERATION AND URGED OTHERS TO RATIFY. HE ALSO URGED USSR TO FOLLOW US AND UK LEAD IN PLACING CIVIL NUCLEAR FACILITIES UNDER AGENCY SAFEGUARDS. HE STATED THAT PHYSICAL PROTECTION CANNOT BE HANDLED BY INDIVIDUAL

NATIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT AGENCY TAKE INITIATIVE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. HE VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED AGENCY'S REGIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTER STUDY. IN CONCLUSION, HE PLEDGED A CASH CONTRIBUTION OF DOLLARS 440,000 TO THE GENERAL FUND IN 1977 TO MEET FRG'S SHARE OF THE TARGET AND HE SAID FRG "WILL MAKE AVAILABLE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AMOUNTING TO MORE THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS FOR JOINT PROGRAMMES AS WELL AS FOR EXPERTS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES AND TRAINING COURSES."

5. FRENCH REP ANDRE GIRAUD STATED THAT RECOURSE TO NUCLEAR ENERGY IS INDISPENSABLE IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER SOURCES. IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF POOR COUNTRIES IT WOULD BE UNJUST AND UNREALISTIC TO ASPIRE TO WORLDWIDE ZERO GROWTH RATE FOR ENERGY. HE STATED THAT BREEDER REACTORS MUST BE UTILIZED TO AVOID A SHORTAGE OF URANIUM. HE NOTED THAT NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS, WHILE RESPECTING INDEPENDENCE OF IMPORTERS, WANT THEIR EXPORTS USED SAFELY. HE SAID FRANCE TRIES TO ENSURE THAT IT DOES NOT ENCOURAGE PROLIFERATION. IN ANALYSIS OF AGENCY'S HISTORY, HE IDENTIFIED SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM AS MOST ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION AGENCY HAS PRODUCED. HE ASSERTED THAT AGENCY CAN APPLY SAFEGUARDS ONLY IF THOSE SAFEGUARDS REMAIN UNAFFECTED BY POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL CONTROVERSIES. HE STATED THAT BOARD OF GOVERNORS CANNOT JUDGE THE COMMERCIAL ASPECTS OF A SALE, BUT CAN ONLY DETERMINE WHETHER THE SAFEGUARDS PROPOSED ARE APPROPRIATE. HE NOTED THAT AGENCY HAS ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS IN SAFEGUARDS AREA AND URGED THAT ITS SAFEGUARDS REGIME NOT BE WEAKENED BY POLITICAL OR COMMERCIAL CONTROVERSIES. HE THOUGHT THAT REGIME PERHAPS SETS A PRECEDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT SOME WAY OF REGIME TO ENSURE WORLDWIDE NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT.
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